

Routes to tour in Germany

The German Wine Route



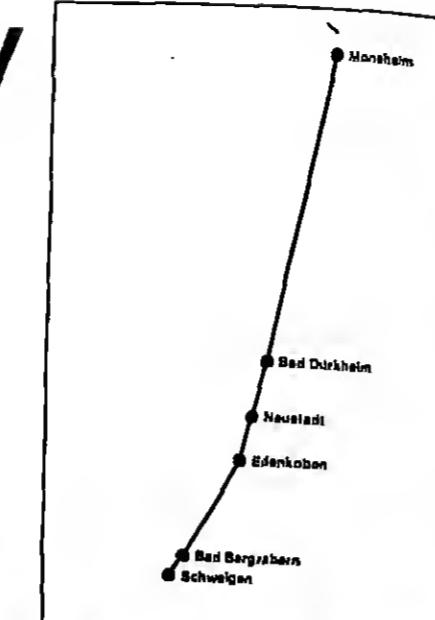
German roads will get you there — to the Palatinate woods, for instance, where 2,000 years ago Roman legionaries were already growing wine. Each vine yields up to three litres of various kinds of wine, such as Riesling, Sylvaner, Müller-Thurgau, Scheurebe or Gewürztraminer. Grapes are gathered in the autumn but the season never ends. Palatinate people are always ready to throw a party, and

place, generating Gemütlichkeit and good cheer. As at the annual Bad Dürkheim Wurstmarkt, or sausage market, the Deidesheim goat auction and the election of the German Wine Queen in Neustadt. Stay the night in wine-growing villages, taste the wines and become a connoisseur.

Visit Germany and let the Wine Route be your guide.

- 1 Grapes on the vine
- 2 Dorrenbach
- 3 St Martin
- 4 Deidesheim
- 5 Wachenheim

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The German Tribune

Hamburg, 16 August 1987
Twenty-sixth year - No. 1286 - By air

A WEEKLY REVIEW OF THE GERMAN PRESS

C 20725 C
ISSN 0016-8858

Bonn and Paris still facing Reykjavik repercussions

NÜRNBERGER Nachrichten

A denauer and de Gaulle made history in signing the 1963 Elysée Treaty. Schmidt and Giscard d'Estaing boosted Franco-German ties by playing politics as the art of the possible.

But the political descendants of Adenauer and de Gaulle have departed from the tradition. They seem to have substituted gestures for policies.

They are either unable or unwilling to progress towards European integration, the basis of which is Franco-German cooperation. Is it the first or the second?

Are there a lack of common objectives? Or are there really barriers too high for them to get over? Are relations beset by temporary ill-feeling? Or is discontent seated deeper?

A more level-headed assessment shows that Bonn and Paris are still facing the repercussions of Reykjavik.

The agreement almost reached between the superpowers on the withdrawal of medium-range missiles led to different views on what was to follow the zero solution.

In Bonn sights are set at short-range Soviet missiles and Warsaw Pact conventional armaments. It would like to see guided missiles stationed in East Germany and Czechoslovakia on the agenda of the next round of disarmament talks.

Alfred Dregger, leader of the CDU parliamentary party in Bonn, says: the shorter the range, the more German the effect.

France sees it differently. It is swiftly enlarging its nuclear force de frappe, starting with the strategic submarine fleet and ending with the manufacture of the new short-range Hades missile.

Disarmament is felt more alarming. President Mitterrand and Premier Chirac may have endorsed the zero solution, but not out of inner conviction; they merely wanted to spare the Atlantic pact a further tensile test.

The outlines of a medium-range missile agreement between the superpowers in Geneva worry Paris on two counts:

- Washington's willingness to withdraw US Pershing 2 and cruise missiles is taken as evidence of America's intention of gradually pulling out of Western Europe.

Paris is afraid US missiles may sooner or later be followed by US troops.

- The common interest shared by Bonn and East Berlin in a reduction of short-range missiles and theatre weapons has prompted deep-seated fears that Germany might go alone.

The link between disarmament and reunification drawn by Bernhard Friedmann, a CDU member of the Bonn Bundestag, is taken more seriously in France than in the Federal Republic.

Fears of a repeat of Rapallo, with Germany coming to terms with the Soviet Union at the West's expense, are still very much alive in the minds of French observers with a keen sense of history.

Consideration for France was one reason why Chancellor Kohl dismissed Friedmann's ideas so swiftly.

In the run-up to East Berlin leader Erich Honecker's visit to the Federal Republic Bonn wants to avoid ambiguity and any doubt about Germany's reliability as a partner of the West.

This may even be the main motive behind the Chancellor's proposal to set up a joint Franco-German army brigade.

This will remain a gesture for as long as there is no clear concept. A joint attempt to draw up security policy aims is long overdue. These aims must, however, be geared to what is practicable rather than what is opportune.

Henri Froment-Meurice, a former French ambassador in Bonn, described the dilemma:

"A return of the French armed forces to the integrated command structure of the North Atlantic pact is no solution. The Germans must not expect it."

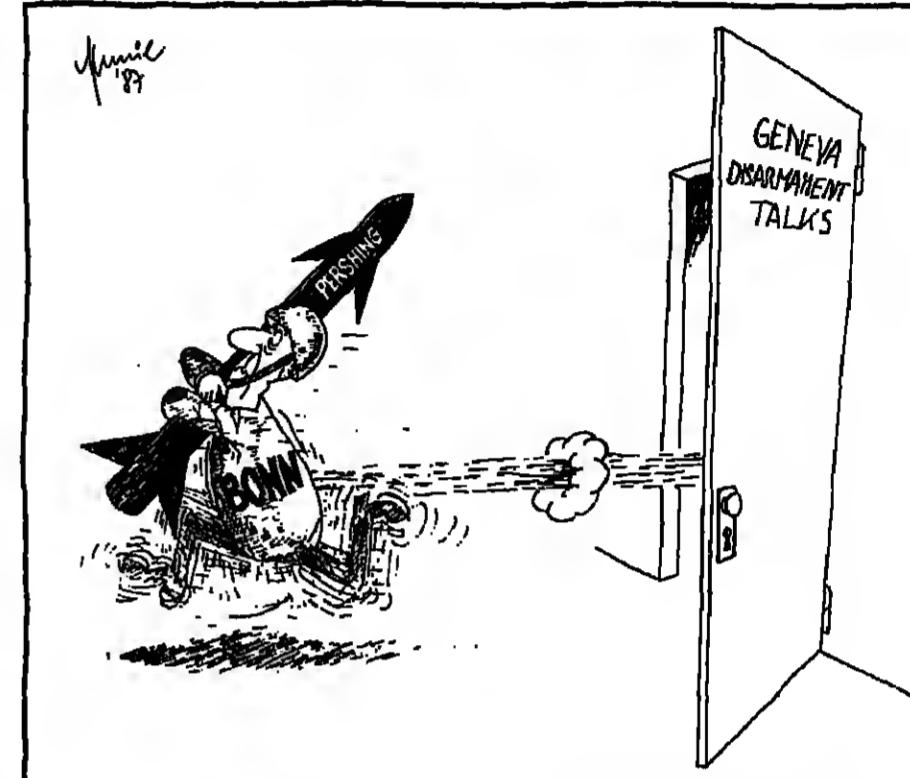
"Withdrawing the German armed forces from the integrated command would not be the answer either. The Germans must not follow France's example."

"What inference is to be drawn? There can be no other solution and no other target in the foreseeable future than European integration."

That is more than vague. Bonn's views are no more specific either. The realisation, over and above Gaullist security concepts, that France's strategic border starts at the Elbe and not at the Rhine has not yet had practical consequences.

Former French Defence Minister Pierre Messmer and Charles Hernu have suggested stationing French missiles in Germany, but that is impracticable because it is politically out of the question.

Continued on page 6



(Cartoon: Felix Mussel / Frankfurter Rundschau)

Soviets name aging German Pershings as scapegoat

Soviet Foreign Minister Edward Shevardnadze has made an unexpectedly blunt speech levelling bitter accusations at the Federal Republic of Germany.

He said at the disarmament conference that Bonn was trying to prevent a comprehensive agreement on missile disarmament between the superpowers.

Bonn's insistence on retaining the Bundeswehr's outmoded Pershing 1A missiles, the nuclear warheads of which are kept under US lock and key, was blocking progress.

Mr Shevardnadze made no mention of the short-range Soviet nuclear missiles stationed in East Germany, in Czechoslovakia and — no doubt — in Poland.

Contrary to expectations he mentioned chemical weapons, conventional disarmament and other demobilisation measures only in passing. It is far from easy to figure out the purpose of the Soviet outburst. Does Moscow really need a new review of its enemy should a full-scale disarmament agreement with the United States fail to achieve the desired result?

The Kremlin certainly wants to prevent, come what may, Washington from

Nordwest Zeitung NWZ

including the Pershing 1As stationed in the Federal Republic on the shorter-range intermediate missile agenda.

Moscow would prefer to include its own short-range missiles, or so it would seem, as a bargaining point in later rounds of conventional disarmament talks.

A further point to be noted is that it is not the first time Moscow has sounded the alarm when proposals have been discussed that provide for Bonn to have a say in nuclear deterrent strategy.

The Soviet Union has always said German nuclear weapons — or a German finger on the nuclear trigger — would be a ground for war as far as it is concerned. Despite the Soviet overkill potential this prospect evidently gives rise to primal fears.

No Bonn government has as much as tried to get a finger anywhere near the nuclear trigger. Even the mistrustful Soviet Union has yet to succeed in proving Bonn guilty of the slightest breach of the nuclear non-proliferation treaty.

It is hard not to gain the impression that Moscow sees the proposed closer Franco-German military cooperation as a thorn in the flesh.

Attempts by France, a minor nuclear power, to move its nuclear weapon carriers closer to the intra-German border are clearly anathema to the Soviet Union.

The Kremlin is keen to continue preventing Bonn, come what may, from playing an active role in nuclear defence.

IN THIS ISSUE

PERSPECTIVE	Page 5
Two new European fighter aircraft in a marketplace big enough for one	Page 5
RETAILING	Page 7
Unknown newcomer elbow aside the heavyweights	Page 7
INDUSTRY	Page 8
Plan to let small firms hire services and lease space	Page 8
THE ARTS	Page 11
Shortcomings in film-director experiment at Bayreuth	Page 11
THE ENVIRONMENT	Page 13
Combination of causes blamed for dying forests	Page 13
CURIOSITIES	Page 14
The lonely, faceless millionaire and the Siege of Heftenbreit	Page 14

Continued on page 2

■ WORLD AFFAIRS

Iran and the Middle East: looking for a way of extinguishing a burning fuse

DIE ZEIT

Iraq and Iran have been at war for nearly seven years, so the Gulf War has already been waged for longer than World War II.

Its human toll has so far been one million dead and wounded and untold horrors ranging from poison gas to a war of attrition maybe best described as macabre tactics.

One in three oil tankers and merchant vessels — 14 out of 333 — attacked has had to be written off as a total loss. Yet no-one has been too upset about the distant hostilities.

Persian Gulf oil, now accounting for only 13 per cent of consumption in the non-communist world and two per cent of West German demand, has continued to be shipped through the Strait of Hormuz.

Higher insurance premiums have similarly failed to upset anyone unduly.

Fighting between Baghdad and Tehran seemed to have been contained by a balance of powerlessness. With neither side able to decide the outcome, the superpowers steered clear of direct involvement in the hostilities.

This composure has suddenly gone with the wind. The mine that punched a nine by four metre hole in the side of the *Bridgeport* impressed on the world at large the threat to oil supplies.

The Americans have shown the flag in yet another ill-conceived tour de force by President Reagan, enhancing the regional conflict into a clash between the superpowers.

Bloody Friday in Mecca has also shown horizontal escalation to be in full swing, with the Iran-Iraq theatre in the process of extension to include the entire Arab world, especially Saudi Arabia.

The powder kegs are full to the brim and the sparks are flying everywhere. The Security Council's unanimous appeal to the belligerents to lay down their arms has had no effect; so much for the UN's firefighting role.

At one fell swoop it is now clear that the Gulf War is much more than a violent clash between states along conventional historical lines.

Territorial claims and hegemonic ambitions are not at stake. Not even the longstanding hostility between Persians and Arabs is at issue.

What we are experiencing is a religious war, inspired by missionary fervour and a doctrine of salvation that leaves scant leeway for raison d'état.

Ayatollah Khomeini embodies this sentiment in its most clearly marked form. His inexorable fundamentalism meets with approval and muster support further afield than in Iran or in the Shi'ite community outside Iran.

Given what many Moslems see as alienation, departure from basic principles and acceptance of too much that comes from the West, it is hardly surprising that there has been an Islamic backlash from Morocco to Indonesia.

As the Swiss historian Jacob Burckhardt wrote a century ago, "any rapprochement with Western culture seems to be absolutely pernicious for the Moslem community."

Elites may have adopted Western ideas on reform and a lay society. Even the puritanical Wahabites have en-

dored technological progress in Saudi Arabia.

But the Moslem masses, who associate these changes mainly with corruption and moral decline, prefer fundamentalism and the traditional way of life.

There is a simple preference, based on the Prophet's teachings, governed by a theocratic system and by clearly-held beliefs.

The Speaker of the Iranian Parliament, Hashemi Rafsanjani, who is felt to be a "moderate" member of the Majlis, does no more than express what every fundamentalist feels when he says:

"Islam is important because it is capable of surmounting Western civilisation."

He draws no distinction between communists and capitalists. Both are execrable and Islamic radicals will have nothing to do with either of them.

Khomeini's supporters hold a "neither East nor West" viewpoint that is perhaps best described as negative neutrality. It is an explosive approach in the Soviet context, bearing in mind the 50 million Moslemmedans in the Soviet Union.

This is the background against which the war between Iraq and Iran and Bandar Abbas must be seen. Politics is also involved, of course, and thus both arms and diplomacy, but aircraft carriers will not put down a cultural revolution and the leeway for diplomacy is limited where no interests and how to reconcile them but salvation is at stake.

So much is unclear, not to say absurd, about President Reagan's commitments in the Persian Gulf. He has, for instance, sided with Iraq. Why?

Iraq was the aggressor. It started the war in September 1980. It was the first to attack oil tankers in 1984. Baghdad has been to blame for most raids on merchant shipping, not to mention the missile attack on the *USS Stark*.

President Reagan has sent the US Navy into treacherous waters with a propaganda hullabaloo — but with what success?

In his Presidency the horrendous sum of \$592bn has been invested in the US Navy, but it isn't equipped to handle the gravest danger — mines — and had to scuttle into safety in the lee of the tankers it was escorting as soon as the first incident occurred.

That made a laughing stock of the

Shevardnadze

Continued from page 1

provisions as part of any conceivable new security system that might emerge.

Mr Shevardnadze's Geneva speech is naturally a particularly pressing reminder to East Berlin leader Erich Honecker to stress disarmament and the prevention of war as a major, not to say the outstanding, issue for discussion during his visit to Bonn.

Elites may have adopted Western ideas on reform and a lay society. Even the puritanical Wahabites have en-

closed operation, whereupon the President called on America's European allies to lend a helping hand at sea, but his request was promptly turned down by them all.

But, as *The Independent*, London, put it: "America cannot behave as though we were a one-country United Nations." Its European allies ought to strongly urge Washington to make use of the UN peace machinery.

Rightly so, one is bound to add, since if the allies are to take part in the proceedings they ought at least to have been consulted beforehand. The Bonn government doesn't need to seek refuge behind constitutional niceties on this point.

But America's allies were no more consulted than the US Congress was, and Capitol Hill is still wondering just what the President has in mind.

Is he planning a showdown with Khomeini? Does he have visions of High Noon in the desert? Whatever his objective, President Reagan has allowed the initiative to be wrested from him.

Maybe the Gulf War will fade away as the warring parties grow steadily weaker. Then everything would remain as before. But what if Iran were to emerge triumphant?

America would face the grim choice of either beating an inglorious retreat, as it did from Lebanon a few years ago, or challenging the Ayatollah's victory — with the attendant risk of a superpower confrontation.

Even an ongoing stalemate would be a fairly dismal prospect. It could easily lead to a liberalisation of the entire Gulf region.

Reluctant though the protagonist may be to bite the bullet of diplomacy, they must give it a chance. The prospects for diplomacy are poor enough; will at best revive a single conflict rather than bring lasting peace to the Middle East.

The region has yet to assume its final shape. The wave of fundamentalism, not yet over by any stretch of the imagination either.

Richard Löwenthal recently said a clash with Islamic extremism would be the real issue that faced the next generation. His instinct probably points in the right direction.

East-West antagonism is on the decline and might well be reduced to the ordinary level of rivalry in dealings between states.

At the same time the Arab-Israeli conflict is forfeiting the crucial significance it has enjoyed for 40 years in the political topography of the Middle East.

This prospect is one that seems to worry a number of the Ayatollah's advisers. No-one knows how much weight their views carry. Diplomacy is needed to supply them with political and economic arguments rather than with armaments.

President Reagan's readiness to negotiate must also be questioned. Diplomacy is not his favourite option; he prefers to send in the Marines, as it were. What is more, he has never been able to decide who his enemy in the

graveyard of the future are no reason for doing nothing here and now. Where so much dynamite has been stockpiled as in the Middle East every effort to stamp out a burning fuse is well worthwhile.

Theo Sommer
(Die Zeit, Hamburg, 7 August 1987)

It goes without saying that his speech was also intended to appease Soviet brasshats, who are neither able nor willing to part company overnight with Soviet enemy visions of old.

Last but not least, it demonstrated that fine words alone are not enough to foster German-Soviet friendship.

Under Mr Gorbachov, as under his predecessors, the Soviet Union is pursuing ice-cold great power policies.

Josef Piskowsky
(Nordwest Zeitung, Oldenburg, 7 August 1987)

Gulf is: Iran or the Soviet Union. The idea of joining forces with Mr Gorbachov in the honest broker's role goes against the grain with Mr Reagan. He balks at this idea — even at the risk of providing the Russians with an opportunity of playing the peacemaker again along the lines of Tashkent.

But, as *The Independent*, London, put it: "America cannot behave as though we were a one-country United Nations." Its European allies ought to strongly urge Washington to make use of the UN peace machinery.

A hundred years ago Jacob Burckhardt wrote: "Those who are either unable or unwilling to annihilate the Moslems are best advised to leave them alone." That was before the era; nowadays it would be poor policy. We must pay attention to the Islamic world.

Maybe the Gulf War will fade away as the warring parties grow steadily weaker. Then everything would remain as before. But what if Iran were to emerge triumphant?

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■ HOME AFFAIRS

SPD and FDP try again to end Hamburg stalemate

Frankfurter Rundschau

Hamburg is still without a majority government even though the election was held in May. The Social Democrats, who went into the poll as minority office-holder, increased their vote to emerge as the single biggest party — but still without an absolute majority.

It is particularly embarrassing when a politician such as Wilhelm Rahlf, FDP leader in the assembly, puts his own forward as Economic Affairs Senator.

He may have his merits, but they don't qualify him for this crucial post.

What makes matters particularly embarrassing is the fact that his party has nailed to its mast the colours of economic renewal in the city.

The first round of post-recess talks has conveyed the impression that swift progress is now to be made toward negotiating coalition terms.

There is little choice at present. Failure to come to terms would have unforeseeable consequences both for Hamburg and for the two parties.

Hamburg's borough councils enjoy local powers enjoyed by local councils in other Länder, but that need not be a drawback. Hamburg could well blaze a trail on votes for foreign residents.

But an SPD-FDP coalition in Hamburg is unlikely to upset the balance of forces between the Bonn coalition parties, much though they may differ on a number of issues at the moment.



I'm going that way, says Hamburg FDP leader Ingo von Münch (right) to Hamburg Mayor Klaus von Dohnanyi (SPD).

(Photo: Poly-Press)

If anything, the coalition talks in Hamburg have had the opposite effect, showing above all how widely powerful groups within the SPD and FDP still differ, especially on economic policy.

Hamburg may at most affect neighbouring Bremen, which is to go to the polls on 13 September.

In Schleswig-Holstein, where state assembly elections are also to be held next month, the Free Democrats have allied with the CDU and look set to win their local Lübeck council.

They are so irritated by the coalition talks in Hamburg that they have not yet seen fit to invite the city's FDP leader, Professor von Münch, to campaign in Schleswig-Holstein.

*Karsten Plag
(Frankfurter Rundschau, 6 August 1987)*

ly have taken over from Hans Kosenick two years ago but he has done well.

With unemployment running at 15.9 per cent, the highest *Land* level in the country (while not forgetting roughly 100,000 commuters from neighbouring Lower Saxony), he has concentrated on economic affairs and finance as policy issues.

His personality and the imaginative way in which he has set about creating new jobs against the backdrop of crisis in shipbuilding and steel have earned him the respect and support of trade and industry as well as that of his fellow-Social Democrats.

His well-prepared, personally presented and successful appeal to the Constitutional Court in Karlsruhe against the terms of revenue redistribution between the Länder was particularly impressive.

His quiet, reliable manner and the way in which he makes no bones about the problems faced by Bremen and Bremerhaven have enhanced his authority both in Bremen and in Bonn so fast that surveys show him to enjoy the popularity of Hans Kosenick in his heyday.

His personal popularity is several per cent higher than his party's, and the SPD is in fine fettle too. Recent surveys indicate that it might well retain its absolute majority of 51.4 per cent and 58 seats in the House.

Bremen's SPD fared less well last January, polling 46.5 per cent in the general election. Its campaign strategy is among the most moderate. Their leader for just over the past year, Claus Jäger, a 43-year-old lawyer, is considered a left-wing Liberal.

The Bremen FDP is so lacking in profile that its main strength is the strength of its voting trend nationwide.

In Bremen — unlike elsewhere — it is not felt to be particularly competent on economic policy.

That is due to the convincing performance of Social Democrat Klaus Wedemeier as Lord Mayor. He may on-

Extreme right aims to hit CDU in Bremen

the Bonn Bundestag and still poses a challenge to Metz as *Land*/CDU chairman.

The Christian Democrats must be seriously worried their support may slump to below 30 per cent next month.

Like the three right-wing extremist groups, the Free Democrats hope to take their pick from traditional CDU voters. In 1983 the FDP polled 4.6 per cent and stayed out in the cold.

The CDU says the FDP has copied the Christian Democratic manifesto yet plans to join forces with the Social Democrats (like the Free Democrats in Hamburg).

They are unlikely to be re-elected. None of the three parties are expected to poll the five per cent needed for election, especially as the extreme right-wing vote will be split between them.

The Social Democrats have offered to buy it out by buying its Hamburg housing stock. Views differ on the terms, but at times the Neue Heimat debate has sounded more like an attempt to negotiate coalition terms than a political game of winners and losers.

Neue Heimat, the financially beleaguered trade union-owned housing corporation, for example.

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■ HOME AFFAIRS

Local governments fear income-tax reform will cause them problems

The German local government conference says Bonn's planned reform of the income-tax system will present many local governments with almost insoluble problems. The *Länder* are just as anxious. Even financially-strong states will have troubles.

The total tax relief up to 1990 in what is the most extensive tax shake-up ever involves about 44 billion marks.

Taxpayers will get back 25 billion marks in "real" relief. Of this, 5 billion marks will be brought forward to 1988. This, together with tax relief already decided upon, brings the total of tax relief for 1988 to almost 14 billion.

In 1990 "real" tax relief will be 20 billion. To this can be added 19 billion that will be compensated by restructuring and adjusting, primarily by cutting subsidies.

Even if Chancellor Kohl's government does really manage to cut subsidies, the question still remains: how is the real tax relief of 20 billion marks to be achieved?

Funds will be available from savings in the public sector. But it is a pity that hope and reality are worlds apart.

The fiscal planning council includes the Bonn Finance Ministry, the states' Finance Ministries, representatives from local government bodies and the Bundesbank, the central bank.

Years ago, the council set up guide-

RHEINISCHER MERKUR

lines for public expenditure which laid down that growth should not be more than 3 per cent a year — the aim being to hold it below the increase in gross national product. Only in this way could public finances be put back on their feet.

If tax relief is included in this redevelopment process, the expenditure ceiling should be reduced, one would have thought. But there has been no mention of it.

On the contrary, states and local government bodies are spending money hand-over-fist. This arrangement prevailed even after Chancellor Kohl formed his government in 1983.

But since 1985 this self-imposed expenditure ceiling has been exceeded year after year. The Finance Minister in Bonn has, in fact, kept to the three-per-cent ceiling, but it has been relatively easy for him to do so.

When Finance Minister Gerhard Stoltenberg can lighten a burden he does so. The most recent example of this was the Cabinet's decision to increase unemployment benefit insurance which in a clandestine manner relieved

the strain on the national budget to the tune of a billion marks per year.

This way of easing finances is not open to the states and local government bodies.

Then there is another factor that can be taken into consideration. Central government has a relatively limited labour force. Increases in personnel salaries do not hurt anywhere near as hard as they do in the states and local government bodies.

This also explains why such a farsighted prime minister as Lothar Späth of Baden-Württemberg wonders whether proposed tax reforms should not be applied in two stages.

No-one is prepared to say how high the burden will be for the states and local government bodies. No-one knows what will come of the tax shake-up that is now contemplated now that the season of state elections has come to an end.

Until the situation is clarified local government bodies are assuming that they will fall into debt to the tune of DM10bn in 1990. That is four times more than last year.

If this standard for the tendency to debt is absolute then the indebtedness of central government, the states and local government bodies would not even be the level Späth fears for 1990 of about DM100bn.

As Bonn has not linked tariff adjustment to its financing the bewilderment is considerable among states and local government bodies, with justification, because the states have yet to balance their books.

Here it is a matter of evening out, at least to some extent, the differing financial strengths of the states and the local government bodies that stand behind them.

The Constitutional Court has announced that part of the balancing accounts practised today is illegal. A draft bill drawn up by the government for reform has not been greeted with much enthusiasm by the states.

On the other hand tax receipts are not increasing at the rate that was previously hoped for but a short time ago.

Latest estimates in May this year suggested that tax receipts for the states between 1987 to 1990 will be a good DM19bn below the figure estimated in May 1986. The May estimate shows that tax receipts for local government bodies will be down almost DM14bn on the figure calculated last year — together DM3.3bn.

This tax shortfall does not include tax relief planned for 1990.

No inflation

There are reasons for this restrained tax growth. The tax relief package 1986/1988 is having its effect. If not fully, also finance politicians in central government, the states and local government bodies must lower their estimates of economic growth.

Finally there is still no inflation. If prices are stable then receipts from value-added taxes do not increase very much.

Stable times also dampen down the wage updrift. Workers and salaried employees do not climb up the tax scale quite so swiftly. This means that clandestine tax increases are lost to the treasury.

Considering the burden federal legislation imposes, particularly on financially-weak states and local government bodies, it should be all the more easy to reach this decision.

*Paul Bellinghausen
Rheinischer Merkur/Christ und Welt
Bonn, 31 July 1987*

What is happening in Germany? How does Germany view the world?

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Periods of price stability, looked at this way, are constantly accompanied by "clandestine" tax reform.

This has played no part in considerations of the 1990 reforms.

Now that "clandestine" and "genuine" tax reforms are reconciled to each other the extent of total tax relief is high.

Thus the states and local government bodies, with their relatively rigid recurrent expenses, get into trouble.

This also explains why such a farsighted prime minister as Lothar Späth of Baden-Württemberg wonders whether proposed tax reforms should not be applied in two stages.

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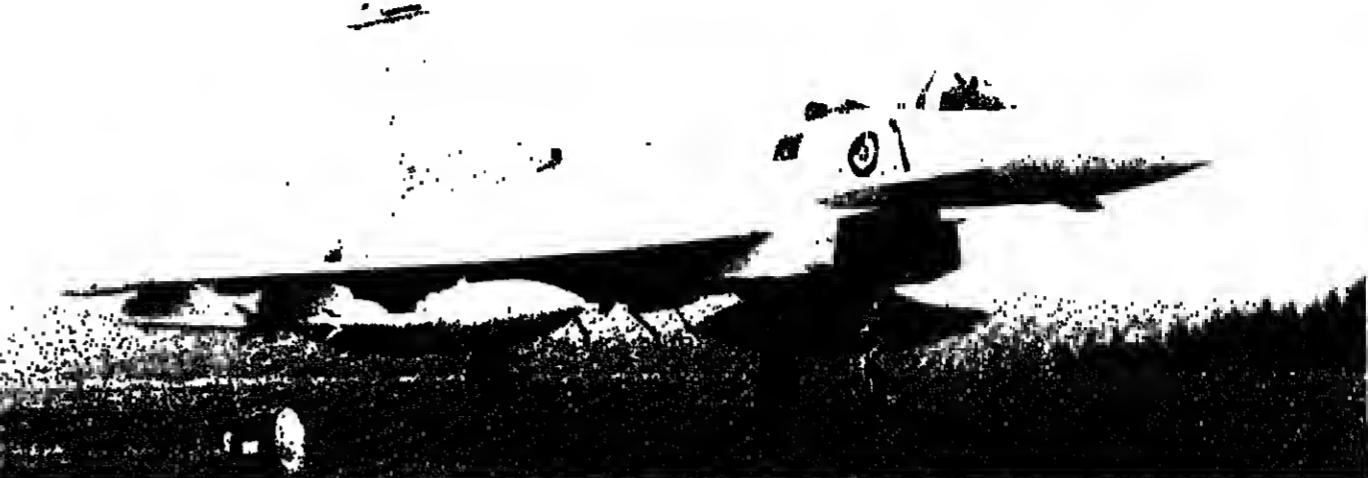
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(Photo: MBB)

PERSPECTIVE

Two new European fighter aircraft in a marketplace big enough for one

The French are sticking with their aircraft. The British, Germans and Italians are sticking with theirs.

It is likely that, by the early 1990s, there will be two state-of-the-art European combat aircraft — the French Rafale and the Eurofighter of the British-German-Italian EAP (Experimental Aircraft Programme).

Once the respective air forces have ordered their aircraft, the marketing battle will begin. On the world market, there will be only room for one of them. Prototypes of both impressed military observers with aerobatic and vertical take-off displays at the Paris air show in June.

But they're no more than prototypes designed only to show the aerodynamic wonders of new technology. Whether a combination of the two will ever become the European fighter aircraft of the 1990s is another matter. The betting at the moment is against it. It will be well over five years before we know for certain.

Aircraft designers may be exercised for feeling the three key design specifications amount to squaring the circle. The Eurofighter must have an unladen weight of no more than 9.75 tonnes (without fuel or weapons). The surface area of its wings must be 51 square metres and its thrust must be 91 kilonewtons.

The wing specification in particular is considered to be crucially important as ensuring ideal uplift, "good-natured" handling and the lowest possible aerodynamic resistance.

The technical highlights of the design concept include fly-by-wire controls, making instable aerodynamics possible, with pilots no longer needing to constantly reset their controls.

German members of the EFA (short for European Fighter Aircraft) consortium are convinced of the technical superiority of their contribution toward the Eurofighter.

Other members of the consortium are manufacturers in Britain, Italy and Spain.

Bonn may have withdrawn, on financial grounds, from participation in EAP prototype development, but Messerschmitt-Bölkow-Blohm (MBB) in Ottobrunn, near Munich, are proud of having contributed toward both the design and the prototype.

When Germany pulled out of this part of the project the British had no hesitation in accepting the ideas that had been put forward by MBB engineers.

The German, British, Italian and Spanish air forces have stipulated exacting demands the Eurofighter must fulfill if it is to meet their requirements.

The design engineers have had to

crack many a tough nut. To ensure air supremacy, for instance, the fighter must be able to climb higher and to be more mobile and have a narrower turning circle than any other plane.

The fighter must be able to attack enemy targets both at close range, in dogfights, and at a longer distance and outlast hours without showing signs of fatigue.

These and other requirements are essential, albeit at stiff cost, to meet the threat posed by improved East Bloc combat aircraft that are expected to be taken into service in the 1990s.

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There was talk of a "disposable" aircraft. But times have now changed.

while tracking for others at the same time.

It establishes target priority without delay, arriving at priority assessments on the basis of distance, size and speed.

As an arms carrier the Eurofighter will be fitted out with up to 12 missiles, depending on its combat role (air-to-air or air-to-ground).

They will be either American Sidewinder, ASRAAM and AMRAAM missiles for short- and medium-range use or the Italian Aspide.

Two extra fuel tanks, arranged in piggyback fashion, are envisaged in enable the aircraft to stay airborne for as long as possible.

The leading aerospace manufacturers in the four countries associated with the project have set up the Eurofighter Jagdflugzeug GmbH in Munich to supervise the project.

They are MBB and Dornier in Germany, British Aerospace, Aeritalia and CASA of Spain.

Their four air forces estimate combined requirements to total roughly 800 fighter aircraft, to be manufactured proportionately by the companies in question.

A final assembly line is to be set up in all four countries to ensure technological equality. The Eurofighter will be manufactured in Munich and Augsburg, in Warton, near Blackpool, in Turin and in Madrid.

The Eurofighter GmbH in Munich will be responsible for the aircraft shell and weapon systems, while Eurojet Turbo GmbH, also Munich-based, will be in charge of engine development.

Partners in the engine venture are MTU of Munich, Rolls-Royce of Derby, Fiat Aviazione of Turin and Seneca of Madrid.

Responsibility for the EJ 200 engine, a design for which has been drawn up and submitted.

To ensure thrust and acceleration performance, turbine rotor blades will be made of monocrystals and discs of polycrystalline metals.

Specifically modified booster jets and digitalised engine controls (keeping a constant check on performance and warning of overheating) should ensure technical excellence, engine designers say.

High tech will enhance reliability and reduce maintenance costs.

France emphasised at the Paris air show that it is determined to go ahead with the DM60bn Rafale project and equip its air force with at least 330 of these new fighters.

They will replace first the ageing Etendards, Super-Etendards, Crusaders and Jaguars and later phase out the Mirage 40.

So Europe seems sure to remain divided for decades where combat aircraft are concerned.

*Rudolf Metzler
(Süddeutsche Zeitung, Munich, 1 August 1987)*

Bonn, Paris

Continued from page 1

in Germany. So if France must play a part in Germany's forward defence, it will need to be a new radar system known as track while scan and consisting of a powerful computer that can indicate several targets on the monitor screen

credible defence preparedness. And that can only be demonstrated by conventional units.

There needs to be a public debate in both countries, but it seems both governments prefer political gestures.

These gestures may be important in a media age, but if they take the place of politics the result can only be stagnation.

The descendants of Adenauer and de Gaulle must show the courage of their convictions and say what they want.

*Wolfgang Schmid
(Nürnberger Nachrichten, 7 August 1987)*

■ TRADE

Unctad talks produce some dull reading and one or two other things as well

Unctad VII has ended its meeting in Geneva. A 50-page document was issued to show what happened. It is not compulsive reading.

It is hard to explain to outsiders what the aims and advantages of the Geneva UN Conference on Trade and Development are.

In spite of this, many people in Geneva claim that the meeting, which got more appalling the longer it went, was worth the time and expense.

Keynotes have been realigned or redefined and guidelines for progress been extended.

The tenor of North-South ties has markedly improved. It has grown more objective, more realistic and nimbed more at cooperation than at confrontation.

Mutual accusations and recriminations, of colonial exploitation or being a bottomless pit of pointless expenditure, have been replaced by an effort to hear interdependence and joint responsibility more in mind.

So Unctad VII may be seen as having marked the beginning of a reappraisal of the entire range of development policy problems.

There may well have been no need for the demonstrative behaviour of the United States and the reminders given by other Western industrialised countries that they, as the Third World's major trading partners and aid donors, were no longer willing to put up with inordi-

Frankfurter Allgemeine

date demands and accusations of providing too little development aid.

There are also those who admit that Western governments and industrial interests are partly to blame for the inefficiency and setbacks of development policy and for the massive debts run up by a number of developing countries.

Western aid, they concede, has been used to buy political influence and in bids to safeguard export markets and commodity supplies.

The Geneva conference has ended with a realisation that development policy can only succeed if its further funding is combined with solutions to debt problems and takes into account the economic, structural, trade and commodity policies pursued by individual countries.

Growth-oriented structural adjustment was an Unctad VII keyword, with all concerned agreeing that a long-term debt strategy is an essential prerequisite for success.

It must be a strategy geared to the requirements and opportunities of those concerned and pave the way for both a replenishment of funds from external sources and a greater mobilisati-

domestic resources. The Third World countries are agreed, to a greater extent than used to be the case, to be responsible themselves, especially for economic policies creating a climate favourable to free enterprise and initiative.

An economic climate of this kind would tend to stem the tide of capital outflow and encourage stronger commitment by domestic and foreign investors.

One of the most striking features of the conference was the breakthrough of free market principles in the Third World to which it bore testimony.

Signs of market orientation were even apparent in a number of statements made by East Bloc delegates, who were remarkably unimpeachable in comparison with their behaviour at previous Unctad conferences, showing first signs of reticence to take on development policy commitments of their own.

The Third World countries might then accept these other organisations as being responsible for negotiating specific agreements and implementing specific moves.

They have been forced to acknowledge that their idea of Unctad as an overriding international economic organisation with universal powers is impracticable as matters now stand.

With the seemingly spectacular Soviet accession to the joint commodity fund there is, at least in theory, a possibility of implementing the integrated commodity dialogue from which the work of other organisations stands to benefit.

So the conference ended on a note of reasonable satisfaction and good will. Current practice will show whether the goodwill and agreement on cooperation in working to achieve the objective outlined in the final conference document will stand the test of time.

Wolfgang van den Udenburgh
Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung
in Deutschland, 1 August 1987

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Germany 'should import more farm products from Third World'

German markets should be thrown open wider to Third World exports, says Economic Cooperation Minister Hinrich Klein.

He said in his 1986 development policy report that all sectors should be opened up, especially agriculture. Aid to trade was better than grants or other support measures.

"Countries that can't sell us anything can't buy anything from us either," he said.

He hinted that, unlike his predecessor, Jürgen Warneke, he does not favour insisting on German development aid being spent on German goods. What counted was the recipient country's requirements.

Herr Klein said an intensive information campaign was needed to iron out differences of opinion on development policy.

These differences were exaggerated but aid to the poorest of the poor was not simply a matter of solidarity or of loving one's neighbour. It also made sound development policy sense.

The swift economic and social progress by African, Asian and Latin American countries was in Germany's self-interest as an export-orientated industrialised country.

He mentioned the dramatic decline in commodity prices and the importance

of industrial commodities. More agricultural produce must be imported.

The developing countries themselves must do more to use indigenous structure and use social behaviour patterns in development projects.

All development projects reviewed by the Bonn Economic Cooperation Ministry were checked for their effect on the environment.

Several projects were aimed at environmental restoration. Trees were being planted to offset the ravage caused by wholesale destruction of tropical rain forests, for example.

German public-sector development totalled DM8.3bn in 1986, or 11.43 per cent of GNP — well ahead of Western industrialised countries' average of 0.36 per cent.

Net spending on bilateral and multilateral aid were slightly down.

Germany aid continued to be based on rural development, on which DM1.6bn was invested.

Another DM1.5bn was spent on basic requirement projects and DM800m on energy-related projects.

Africa and Asia each accounted for 41 per cent of German financial or technical assistance. Latin America got a little over 11 per cent.

The poorest developing countries were given DM900m in non-repayable grants.

Arnulf Gosch

(Die Welt, Bonn, 1 August 1987)

ings, particularly by means of funds of commodity fund's disposal.

The industrialised countries are similarly expected to improve their performance on structural adjustment. They can only expect development aid to stop being a bottomless pit if they are serious in promising, as they so often have, to renounce protectionism.

They must show more and for all that they mean business on abjuring protectionism and on throwing their market wider open to goods exported by developing countries.

In the long term that would open up extra markets for their own export industries.

In reaffirming the aims of the Uruguay Round, which include reform of the system of world trade, the industrialised countries might succeed in persuading the Third World to retain from further argument over the delimitation of powers between Unctad and other international organisations such as Gatt, the World Bank and the IMF.

The Third World countries might then accept these other organisations as being responsible for negotiating specific agreements and implementing specific moves.

They have been forced to acknowledge that their idea of Unctad as an overriding international economic organisation with universal powers is impracticable as matters now stand.

The firm keeps on getting bigger. Wagner has bought 24.9 per cent of the equity of his major competitor, Massa, which increased turnover from more than 10 billion to more than 13 billion marks — and shot it past the largest department store group, Karstadt AG.

Wagner says there is still work to do to make the Asko name a family one. So far, it is still confused with a Finnish furniture manufacturer of the same name which has now pulled out of Germany.

But Asko's relative obscurity does not detract from the success of the business.

Most of the success story has been written by Helmut Wagner who, with his colleague Günter Mössner, has headed Asko since the beginning of the 1970s.

Wagner is equally a convinced capitalist and a Social Democrat. He said that he had followed Oskar Lafontaine, the left-wing Saar Premier, and the East German leader, Erich Honecker, "with delight".

In 1960, as an "SPD official," he was appointed to the board of the Allgemeine Saar Konsum Organisation.

He now says that no decisions go making appointments like that but "they were lucky with the laymen they had."

At the time Asko was a sleepy consumer's cooperative, which began life in 1880 as the Eisenbahn-Consum-Verein. It had more than 330 grocery shops in the southwest of the Federal Republic.

Asko's rise began at the beginning of the 1970s. Wagner, a former Young Socialist, chairman of the Sozialistischer Deutscher Studentenbund at Mainz University and a trades union official,

then in 1977 the government

slammed the door. Curbs were put on discount stores on the outskirts of cities and towns. No shopping centres covering an area more than 1,500 square metres were given approval to operate. A self-service supermarket needed as much as 10,000 square metres on the

outskirts. Wagner said: "In doing this the government created a monopoly for us."

Wagner now had to rein back his attempts at becoming a national self-service supermarket chain on the outskirts by expanding into the north of the Federal Republic.

There were already four Apollo hypermarkets in Lower Saxony, but approval for more was withheld. The four alone in the north of the country were not economically viable. Wagner sold them to the Schaper Group in Hanover.

The government's action opened the way for Asko to expand elsewhere.

Wagner made his company the undisputed Number One in retail business on the outskirts of cities and towns, by establishing new outlets but mainly by spectacular take-overs of other companies.

In 1979 he entered into the building materials business. His 90 *Praktiker* building materials and handyman supermarkets he named as the "Aldi" (a chain of low-priced grocery stores) of the German building materials market. These outlets offered handymen, tradesmen and moonlighters building materials at discount prices.

In 1981 he made his second foray into new business when he bought into the discount clothing chain Adler of Haibach. This was a lucky move for Asko, for it brought to the cheap outlets not only massive growth but also profits for the constantly capital-starved trading group.

Clothing and fabrics were produced in Bavaria, Sri Lanka and South Korea. Wagner said with satisfaction: "Till now no-one has been able to copy Adler."

That year the Monopolies Commission cast its eye on Wagner's activities in the Saar. He then created a mild sensation in the trading sector. He cut through the last threads binding him to the Co-op Group. He was mainly involved with this cooperative for the purchase of goods. He now linked up with the cooperative Rewe-Zentrale AG. He obtained 50 per cent of the equity in this operation.

The other 50 per cent of the Rewe capital was held by the expansion-minded retail group Leibbrand. Together Wagner and Leibbrand formed a very strong trading group. For the Monopolies Commission a huge, but perfectly within the law, operation.

But Wagner was far from being at the

■ RETAILING

Unknown, high-flying newcomer elbows the heavyweights out of the way

DER SPIEGEL

outskirts, Wagner said: "In doing this the government created a monopoly for us."

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With this move Wagner more than doubled the Asko 1984 turnover of almost DM 1.7bn.

To make this operation acceptable to the Monopolies Commission Wagner gave up his holding in Rewe. The Monopolies Commission gave him the nod of approval.

But his great moment was yet to come. Last year he bought into his Hanover-based competitor Schaper, that last year had a turnover of DM15.7bn. With this acquisition he was able to penetrate the north as well as the west of the country.

In this deal Wagner required 42 building materials retail outlets, 27 furniture and interior decoration operations and a dozen or so wholesale shops.

Triumphant he said: "Asko has moved up the class ladder."

Since the beginning of this year Wagner has had at his disposal more than 75 per cent of the Schaper capital and he has no option on the rest.

But here he wants to be in tune with the Monopolies Commission. The Commission sees in Wagner's new massive empire an opposing force to powerful trading groups from Aldi to Metro.

Harald Lübbert, a department head in the Monopolies Commission in Berlin

Continued on page 8

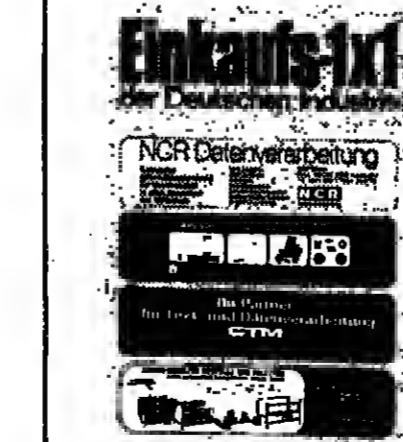
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■ INDUSTRY

Plan to let small firms hire services, disused space

One of Germany's biggest engineering groups is planning to let disused premises plus equipment, services and infrastructure to smaller firms. Mannesmann has been steadily slimming its operations and hopes that leasing both knowhow and facilities will allow it to at least break even on disused premises. It plans to hire out port facilities on the Rhine, the works railway network, company medical service and fire brigade, laboratory facilities, planning units, research-and-development resources and data processing facilities. Here, Kay Bandermann looks at the group's plan for *Deutsches Allgemeines Sonntagsblatt*.

The calendar on the bare wall is for August 1979. The room is empty, the PVC flooring clean. Apart from a broken window, the disused offices look ready for use.

The building next door, once a canteen, is also disused — and looks it. Ferns and wild plants (formerly known as weeds) festoon the doorway and reach to the windows.

Hall 3a, a few yards further on, has a side door that opens when manhandled, exposing to view a hole in the floor and the 30-year-old concrete foundations of the redbrick building.

Steel piping and waste metal still litter the factory floor but Mannesmann, the tube manufacturers, would like to see life return to the 35,000 square metres, or nearly 10 acres, of industrial wasteland. The steel pipe factory of about 1.9 metres (40ft) above the ground, could then go back to work moving loads of up to 80 tonnes.

Mannesmann plan a new approach to location of industry, and what the engineering group has in mind here in Duisburg has already been highly prised.

Three factory workshops with a combined floor space of over 100,000 square metres, or 1.2 million square feet, and a further 75,000 square metres of uncovered space currently used as farmland are on offer.

Mannesmann are prepared to rent or sell, leasehold or freehold, the entire site, wholly or in part, to other firms.

Newly-established firms are just as welcome to set up shop as larger companies with plans to expand.

The factory may not have been in use for five years or more but all halls still have working crane facilities and electric power, compressed air and water points.

Much the same can be said of many an industrial wasteland in the Ruhr. The Huckingen, Duisburg, site is one of many.

Where it differs from the others is that Mannesmann are prepared to offer newcomers their entire infrastructure and technical know-how — for a price. Cost-sharing, they call it.

Newcomers will be able to use the Mannesmann inland port facilities on the Rhine, the works railway network, medical service, fire brigade and canteen.

Laboratory facilities, planning units, research and development, data processing — all are on offer, at a price.

For small firms in particular, says a Mannesmann director, the advantages of access to such comprehensive services cannot be rated highly enough.

"They have no need to invest heavily in site development and factory construction," he says. "Or take transport, for instance. If a small firm wants to ship heavy goods it will take them at

least a day to get a police permit. For us that is just a minor detail."

He nods in the direction of the extensive works railway network, which has direct access to the Bundesbahn and national and international rail services.

Pressure of costs has forced Mannesmann to embark on this new entrepreneurial venture. Like all large Ruhr coal and steel companies, Mannesmann are under pressure to adjust.

In Mannesmann's case the payroll will be cut back from 20,000 to 15,500 by the end of next year. The management has revised production targets too.

Output has now been set at 2.4 million tonnes of raw steel and two million tonnes of steel tubing in 1985. The production figures were 3.5 million and 2.65 million tonnes respectively.

Mannesmann workers in this part of Duisburg have not yet been affected, but it is their turn next.

In the early 1970s the company gave up manufacturing rolled steel in Hückingen, concentrating instead on producing the raw material for steel tubing.

The next wave of modernisation, which occurred in the early 1980s, saw a retrenchment of activities to a handful of highly efficient facilities, especially two continuous casting plants for seamless steel tubes.

Mannesmann have invested DM1bn in this modernisation programme over the past eight years. Industrial facilities no longer required are now offered to all comers.

They are expected to yield rental income and the proceeds of outright sales, although one spokesman for the company is doubtful whether the operation will not profit.

"We have very little hope of earnings being higher than the cost of refurbishing factory and office space," he says.

The extra revenue from contract work for Mannesmann workshops and laboratories is not expected to amount to more than three to live per cent.

"There is a great deal of goodwill about the whole operation, you know," he says. Goodwill for Duisburg, a city hard-hit by the structural crisis that besets the entire Ruhr.

Small wonder the local authority is more than willing to lend any assistance it can. Duisburg has long suffered from the specific problem that it no longer owns a single square metre of industrial development land.

"That," says Helmut Stegemann, deputy head of the municipal development agency, "is a late consequence of the long-term

land holding policies of the city's leading industrial companies."

Mannesmann, Thyssen and Krupp, the "Big Three," own up to 70 per cent of the industrial acreage. The city has urged them since the late 1970s to part company with land that has been abandoned and works that have been shut down.

"They didn't begin to oblige until the 1980s steel crisis and public pressure was brought to bear on them," Stegemann says.

The city has ample land zoned as commercial acreage, but industrial acreage in sufficient quantity is essential if industrial development is to help create new jobs.

Provisions of the State Emission Act require more than a mere stroke of the pen to reclassify commercial industrial land.

Lord Mayor Josef Krings feels Mannesmann's move may have a signal effect on other companies. The industrial development agency confirms that talks are being held with the boards of Thyssen and Krupp.

Reinut Jochimsen, Economic Affairs Minister of North Rhine-Westphalia, calls the Duisburg experiment an "encouraging and progressive step."

He clearly has more in mind than just Duisburg and has offered new companies a 15-per-cent investment grant as part of the Land government's programme to help depressed steel areas.

By complaining they hope to make it difficult for the Austrians or get an increase in customs duties applied.

They are looking for signs that there will be fairer competition in the future with other state subsidised and state-owned steel concerns.

The West German steel pipe association in Düsseldorf describes this as "an act of despair."

In 1986 the Austrian steel concern made a loss of DM318 for every tonne of steel produced. These losses run into billions that had to be covered by the state.

This year the losses will be less which means it is subsidy of DM467 per tonne he must give.

More than half of this dumping steel from Styria finds its way to the West German market.

German steel manufacturers (Mannesmann, Benteler and Maxhütte) regard it as just a little ironic that Vöslau has made great play of being the company to turn Maxhütte from bankruptcy.

Details cannot be finalised overnight, of course. "Before a company invests DM200m months go by as locations are analysed, plans are costed and the project is given the once-over at all management levels responsible for approving the investment outlay," says a Mannesmann director.

So it will be two years at the earliest before anyone can say for sure whether the Duisburg experiment has really been a success.

Kay Bandermann
Deutsche Allgemeine Sonntagsblatt,
Hamburg, 2 August 1987

Continued from page 7
lin, said: "Without us Asko's star would never have risen."

The officials in Berlin are unable to prevent the Asko star from glowing even brighter.

For the time being Asko has only an unassailable 24.9 per cent participation in Massa. But there is nothing in the present law or the administration of justice to prevent a company taking over a majority.

Bob Wagner himself has denied that he is interested in taking over a majority holding.

He said: "I am just a simple businessman and not a monopolies expert. I must deal with that first."

Wagner is of the view that there is a lot he can do with his new acquisition.

The Kipp family that founded Massa have reduced their interest in the company to just five per cent.

Apart from 25 supermarkets he has access to specialised supermarkets including furnishings and electrical goods stores, a prefabricated house programme and certain production factories.

He can lease space for Adler in the Massa supermarkets, the building materials stores complement one another and he can put the prefabricated houses up for sale in his building materials shops.

For some time his sausage and meat shops have been operating up to capacity. Once more a piece of luck for Wagner.

Günther Freese
(Die Zeit, Hamburg, 31 July 1987)

Pipeline makers blame losses on dumping

DIE WELT
ZEITUNG FÜR POLITIK, KUNST UND KULTUR

No. 1286 - 16 August 1987

THE GERMAN TRIBUNE

■ SPACE RESEARCH

Everyone's back on their launching pads

Space research seems to have regained its momentum in the West — both in America and Europe.

Nasa has begun trials of the space shuttle, Discovery, which is due for its next lift-off next summer.

Nasa has also placed with Rockwell International, the US aerospace group, the long-controversial contract to build a fifth space shuttle to replace Challenger, which exploded on take-off in January 1986.

They are up to their ears in trouble anyway and claim that their considerable losses are due to the Austrians.

The Vöslau group has only been kept alive by state subsidies. The production of the pipe plant in Styria was designed originally only for the Russian market but it is now being marketed in the European Community at prices 25 per cent below EC prices, particularly in the "liberal" West German market.

Europe also appears to be on the march again now that the trouble with Ariane's ignition has been identified and eliminated. The next satellite launch by Ariane carrier rocket is now scheduled for September, after a delay of over a year.

Bonn Research Minister Heinz Riesenhuber has named five German astronauts who will stand for Bonn's commitment to manned space research.

The sums so far mentioned, even tentatively, by Herr Riesenhuber have already come as a shock to MPS.

The German share of the bill was earlier estimated at about DM8bn, but the latest figure is DM18bn at 1986 prices.

The Germans are not alone in referring to cost estimates burgeoning in tropical splendour and to a bottomless pit that was likely to cost unfilable billions.

Herr Riesenhuber in contrast says the cost will amount in DM10bn by the turn of the century, including an extra national space research programme, which is a figure that can be financed.

.. He will hear nothing of allegations that he heads a Space Research Ministry that no longer has funds at its disposal to invest in anything other than space research.

Ministry officials expect further delays to occur, postponing the development of Ariane 5 and, even more markedly, of Hermes and Columbus.

At the latest estimate the Ariane launcher rocket for the Hermes space shuttle will not be ready until 1997.



Three will be left out: Research Minister Heinz Riesenhuber (third from right) with (from left) potential astronauts Schlegel, Thiele, Brügger, Walpot and Walter.

[Photo: dpa]

Two women, three men to be trained as astronauts

Three men and two women have been chosen from 1,700 applicants to be shortlisted as astronauts in Germany's space research effort. All five are to be trained as astronauts for the D2 Spacelab mission, probably in 1991 — but only two will be used.

Renate Luise Brügger is a 32-year-old researcher from St. Gallen, Switzerland, who studied maths and physics. Heike Walpot, at 27 years, the youngest, is a trainee anaesthetist who was an Olympic swimmer.

Gerhard Paul Julius Thiele, 33, has studied physics. He ran in last year's New York marathon.

Hans Wilhelm Schlegel, at 36, the oldest, studied experimental physics and is currently working for a manufacturer of physical measuring and testing equipment. He skis and surfs, runs cross-country and plays basketball.

Ulrich Walter, 33, is a specialist in tunnel microscopy, which is a way of making atoms visible.

Franz Brügger qualified as a senior school teacher. She is a lively, dark-haired woman with an unmistakable Bavarian accent who says she enjoyed working as a teacher, "but working as a clerk at the counter of a large bank during the semester holidays taught me a great deal too."

Nor would she want to have missed out on 18 months working night shifts as a nurse in a children's hospital.

She has lived and worked for six years in the United States. She did physics research at Miami University before moving to Colorado University, where she now works.

In Böhlendorf, Göttingen, at the foot of the Rockies, she is concerned mainly with meteorological topics such as the mechanics of wind currents and numerical weather forecasting.

Franz Brügger is a keen photographer ("I have even won prizes") and enjoys classical music as a relaxation from working at the VDU of her computer.

She started mountaineering two years ago. She lives with a fellow-physicist, Joe Macellan, for whom she now hopes to find a job in Germany.

Franz Walpot was born in Düsseldorf. Her parents were both competitive athletes. She was an Olympic swimmer and now works as a trainee anaesthetist at an Aachen hospital.

He is a Beethoven fan with a soft spot for Sibelius; "we spent our honeymoon in Finland."

Herr Schlegel is one of a family of nine children. He studied experimental physics in Aachen, then signed on for two

Continued on page 13

J. Gehlhoff
(Die Welt, Bonn, 31 July 1987)

Rudolf Metzler
(Süddeutsche Zeitung, Munich, 4 August 1987)

■ FILMS

The youngest generation of German directors discovers the present

A mad scientist builds a bomb from radioactive milk and vegetables — and destroys the world with it.

Two American soldiers on a survival-training exercise become separated from their comrades — and suddenly they find themselves confronted by a Russian soldier.

On Christmas Eve, four men in wheelchairs steal DM20,000 of donations from their home for the handicapped — and meet an angel.

These then, are three films from the New German Film movement. They are films that represent something of a change in taste because for some time, young German film-makers have tended to avoid anything present and topical, particularly the present in their own country.

Top German directors such as Volker Schlöndorff, Werner Herzog or Vadim Glowna, have looked to America or the South Seas for themes. Younger directors, still chasing fame and success, have turned to the German past.

Mathias Allary, 27, who made the Chernobyl collage *Kernerlei Besorgnisse*, said: "Most people take a cautious line and make films about the past, because they are sure that they will get a film promotion grant or a contract from television."

It is a new development that film-makers are settling accounts with the Nazi period as a means of gaining access to the bulging funding of German film promotion.

Twenty-five years ago, when 20 young film-makers in Oberhausen brought into being the New German Film, Matthias Allary would have been run out of town for his contemptuous opinions.

He has now learned to play the right thing. He is one of the generation of film-makers around the year 1960 who set out shakily into the film medium.

Dealing with the German past obviously was easier for them. Their fathers were not old enough to have been able to think for themselves in the Third Reich.

They only learned about the horrors of Auschwitz and Dachau and the Nazi terror from history books. Their parents had experienced the war in an air-raid shelter or from the viewpoint of an anti-aircraft auxiliary.

While the younger generation in Woodstock were twanging away at their guitars they were learning set theory.

They only know about the Vietnam War through films such as *Platoon* or *Apocalypse Now*.

The film-directors on whom they model themselves no longer come from France, directors such as Jean-Luc Godard or Louis Malle, but the younger generation of film-makers from the USA such as Hugh Hoffmann or Francis Ford Coppola.

Hugh Hoffmann, who grew up in Berlin, harvested mainly catcalls and boos for his *Dawning*. The harsh criticism was directed more to the style than to the content of the film.

Two American officers, cut off from the outside world, are being trained in survival techniques, but their unit seems to have forgotten all about them.

The two try to survive until suddenly they encounter a Russian. The situation escalates. One American dies. The

other American and the Russian fraternise.

It is hard to understand why the tough men in Hugh Hoffmann's film world had to give up, masturbate under a sheet, cut up a dead rabbit with a knife and scurry through the dark pines in a dandified manner with a revolver.

Hoffmann said: "I grew up in Berlin and was constantly confronted by the East-West conflict. I made the film because of this, which is nothing more than the desire that people should understand each other more."

His story was triggered off by a worn-out American Army jeep that Hoffmann bought and that is constantly parked or being driven about in his film.

The influence of the American film world on West German film-making cannot be ignored. Roland Emmerich, who graduated from the Munich film and television college, has stubbornly pursued his aim of producing American action films in Germany.

Emmerich, a special effects expert, has amazed the film world with his horror and science fiction films. They constantly include astonishingly good tricks, as in his latest *Hollywood Master*, with a very weak script that, a few years ago, would have made egg-head cineastes turn up their noses.

The generation change in the New German Film takes place so swiftly that it can only be compared chronologically with the common fly. But that's another story.

Some of the signatories of the 1965 Oberhausen Manifesto, now over 20 years on, regard the founder generation of the New German Film as being "subtly falsifiers of reality."

While a few old-timers lament the death of the irreplaceable Rainer Werner Fassbinder, and complain that they

RHEINISCHER MERKUR

don't get enough subsidies from the state and no-one now takes any notice of their work, the younger generation of film-makers are rearing to go.

Matthias Glasner reminds his older colleagues of Francois Truffaut, "who, at the beginning never had a penny and went into debt so as to make his films."

Glasner, 22 and from Hamburg, has followed Truffaut's example and has made a 75-minute-long experimental film, *Requiem*. The film is clearly based on the panic caused by AIDS. An epidemic breaks out into a world filled in dazzling colours. No-one can explain where the epidemic originated and how it was passed on. People who are infected have to go into a ghetto. Man, an inhabitant, tries to escape from the prison, but he finds that the world outside and the prison are the same.

Most of the audience at the première of the film left the cinema via the fire exit within the first quarter of an hour of this indigestible fare.

Glasner was not put off by this. He said: "I must, I have to make films." He added: "that when he was just over eight he made his first short film."

"I try to make films about everything that I do not understand. Theo usually I understand it," he explained.

Glasner confessed: "We have a prob-

lem. We can no longer make a film if it is not commissioned in one way or another."

The West German film-going public, 80 per cent of whose film fare comes from America, is used to top quality American productions that cost about DM100,000. These are regarded as extremely cheap, low-budget productions. A German director would walk his feet off if he had to pay such a production budget. Rusnak said: "Of course you can make a film for DM50,000 but a demanding public will not always want to see it."

He and Huettner graduated from the Munich film and television college. The problem for West German film-makers is that "good films cost money, a lot of money."

Since its establishment in Oberhausen in 1965 the New German Film has been concerned with how to raise money.

Then, in the 1960s, there was very little cash around for the promotion of West German films. Now sources of cash are bubbling up all over the place.

Joseph Rusnak said that about 80 per cent of all full-length films screened on the First and Second Television Channels are co-productions. Despite cutbacks in television planning public television networks are, next to state subsidies, essential patrons of the New German Film.

Ralf Huettner commenting on these subsidies said: "Basically we no longer make films for the cinema. I can only use certain kinds of themes for television, but for the cinema I can show what is really important to me."

Huettner and Rusnak have both made films for television. Rusnak filmed the Georges Simenon novel *Das Fenster der Rose*. This was the first of thirteen hour-long co-productions to be made with other European stations. The basis in literature for these films are the unknown psychological novels of the creator of the detective Maigret.

In Rusnak's film version Dominique (played by Billie Ziegler) witnesses a murder. Through her window she sees her neighbour, the attractive Antoinette (Hannelore Elsner) kills her husband by failing to give him assistance.

Dominique, a lonely woman, does not betray the murderer, but secretly observes her, identifying herself with the heinous criminal.

Ralf Huettner's film *Mädchen mit den Fenerzengen* is a comedy. Comedy has had a shadowy existence in the New German Film movement. Doris Dörrie's *Männer* was an exception that was a considerable success among West German film-goers.

Huettner's comedy will be screened on West Germany's Second Television Channel on 24 December. On Christmas Eve four men in wheelchairs pinch DM20,000 from the Bethany home for the handicapped, donated by the city of Munich.

Actually they wanted to repair the shower on the third floor with the DM20,000.

Kleebli, one of the handicapped men, full of despair tries hard to blow the money. An angel helps him.

Rusnak's exciting film with well-known television actors and actresses or Huettner's extremely funny film which depicts its touchy theme is never an embarrassing Christmas story, are more pleasing than the films from film-makers in their 20s.

Rusnak and Huettner give assurances that they wanted to make quite different films.

Rusnak confessed: "We have a prob-

■ THE ARTS

Shortcomings in film-director experiment at Bayreuth

Handelsblatt WIRTSCHAFTS- UND FINANZZEITUNG

Wolfgang Wagner's courage is to be admired. Film-maker Werner Herzog, whom he commissioned to direct the new Bayreuth *Lohengrin*, has only directed opera a few times in his apprenticeship years.

Unlike film director Werner Schröder and before him Zefirelli and Johannes Schaaf, Herzog did not feel at home in opera.

He himself said that he had only seen five operas live. The novelty character, that has been a feature of the second "New Bayreuth" era since Cherem's *Ring*, was apparent again then.

The stage was not so startling as had been expected. Those who expected the creator of the suggestive *Herz aus Glas* and the Kospatz-Hansel films to bring the power and density of his filming to Bayreuth were disappointed.

What Herzog did offer was last-century romantic opera in a big cinema setting.

It seems that Herzog and his scene and costume designer Henning von Gierke very much had the work of *Lohengrin* in mind. There were beautiful pastel-toned costumes, partly trimmed with musketeers. The stage was framed by branches from trees as we know them from film sets.

The chorus was decoratively grouped instead of being lined up. The scenes were dominated by symmetry. The direction of the performers was strangely vague and undramatic.

The musical star of the evening was the chorus, that made the most of every nuance. The direction was crystal clear and heightened the drama.

There is no other opera in the world that has such tonal homogeneity.

In the ensemble scenes the soloists gave of their all.

In the robust parts, Ekkelund Wlaschilka (Tetramund) or Gabriele Schmitt (Ortrud) produced everything they had right to their limits. This meant that Ortrud's last scene was screamed rather than sung.

The King's Herald (James Johnson) found it difficult keeping up while Mandrich Schenk as the King, Henry the Fowler, did not have to tax his bass

Continued from page 10

a German cinema. There is a demand for entertaining films, films for the viewer and not for an esoteric clique of film-makers. Yet films that are not made of shallow material.

There are no definitions of content, no rules about form or style, for the New German Film. It was always a collecting tank of the work of various individuals.

But from generation to generation there has been a change in its relationship to the media.

Claudio Abbado is also well-known for having strong academic enthusiasm. For a long time he has worked with the Chamber Orchestra of Europe and the Gustav Mahler Youth Orchestra with considerable success. Fortunately neither his duties at La Scala, Milan nor in Vienna have interfered with selecting their themes.

Fun is called for, despite, or perhaps because of, Chenobyl and AIDS.

Inti-Richard Schuster
Rheinischer Merkur/Christ und Welt,
Bonn, 10 July 1987



'Musical direction not good enough for Bayreuth'... Werner Herzog's production of *Lohengrin*.
(Photo: Bayreuther Festspiele/Rauh)

voice too much. Catarina Ligendza stepped into the role as Elsa von Brabant at the last minute, replacing the indisposed débutante Nadine Secunde. She cannot be praised enough.

It was no small test of abilities for Ligendza to sing the lyrical role of Elsa in *Lohengrin* and also Isolde in this year's Bayreuth Festival. But for all our admiration for her she is not quite able to pull off the high notes properly in this role.

The Canadian Paul Frey made his debut at Bayreuth in the title role. His clear, helden tenor voice was not quite polished enough. He has a typically "white" tenor voice, strongly throaty and not precise in breathing, so weakening his top notes. It seemed as if he had trouble with his vowels, the a was sounded deep in his throat.

Conductor Peter Schneider, an old Bayreuth hand, was remarkable in parts. His *Lohengrin* is hazy rather than atmospheric, always obliged to provide full-bodied harmony.

The prelude, whose string section must hover as if sounding from another world, was on the whole too loud without any refinement in its dynamics.

The dramatic passages were performed with brio. The tempo in the lyrical and key monologue passages (love duet and Lohengrin's Grail story) was held back too much.

The celestial quality, vital to this opera, was totally lacking.
Christian Herrchenrider
Handelsblatt, Düsseldorf, 31 July 1987

Music lessons from some masters

Abbado and his musicians. These three works made considerable demands on the players, particularly in the brass section.

Abbado conducted Brahms' Second Serenade tightly but at the same time with considerable warmth, bringing out the music's qualities marvellously.

Abbado took Schubert's Sixth Symphony seriously, written when the composer was 20. Many believe it denies his genius because it is so derivative from Rossini and Beethoven.

Abbado sought to counteract the repeats of the subjects by surprisingly powerful emphases, without thereby neglecting the precision of the gentle melodic line. It was a Schubert full of grace that stood in contrast to jaunty riddicks.

The final concert was given in the Lübeck Stadthalle with Stravinsky's Pulcinella Suite. Abbado and his refined orchestra certainly brought more than cool humour to Stravinsky's fresh paraphrase of Pergolesi.

Klaus Warnerke
(Die Zeit, Bonn, 31 July 1987)

■ ANTHROPOLOGY

Assignment in the Andes: the doctorita and the Callawaya medicine men

In Ulm University anthropologist, Ina Rösing-Diederich, is engaged in a long study of the rituals of Callawaya Indian medicine men in the rain- and cold-swept Bolivian highlands 260 km by road from La Paz.

She plans to document a civilisation threatened by extinction in a series of books under the heading *Mundo Ankari*. The first volume, entitled *Die Verbannung der Frauen* (The Banishment of Mourning), has been published by Gre-No-Verlag, Nördlingen.

She is also trying to find out what psychological processes are involved in an overall approach to sickness and health that in part goes back to Inca traditions.

Professor Rösing, 45, normally works at the Ulm University psycho-social centre in the psychotherapeutic processes research unit.

Her South American research, funded by the Robert Bosch Foundation and the Scientific Research Association (DFG), may have no direct connection with her work back home, but she finds the atmosphere in Ulm most congenial.

Or is it a contradiction in terms to say that it enables her to spend months and years away from her office in the former School of Design sharing an unheated hut 3,200 metres up in the Andes with slugs, spiders and fleas?

At first glance she looks as though she might be a business executive. She is

STUTTGARTER ZEITUNG

cobwebs. I had just recovered from a bout of typhoid.

"When you wake up at night recovering from the shock with your skin covered in cobwebs you are bound to feel at times that working in a laboratory might be a little more pleasant."

Professor Rösing did not make a bee-line for a remote corner of the Andes solely in search of a storybook Indian world in order to lick psychological wounds of her own.

She would seem to be a person with both feet firmly on the ground, as it were. She is married. Her husband, a physicist, is surprisingly understanding when it comes to her work, which he realises she is keen to devote herself to heart and soul.

The reason for her somewhat unusual research preoccupation must be sought in her academic career.

When she came to Ulm a little over a decade ago she and her students first dealt intensively with how to handle patients who were seriously ill or dying.

She wrote a comprehensive manual entitled *Die Begleitung Sterbender* (Handling Terminal Patients).

Sympathetic interest was the starting-point of her research in South America, where she herself categorises under the heading "ethno-medical research."

She first learnt about the Callawaya Indians in any detail in South American libraries, but as a teenager she had accompanied her mother, also an anthropologist, on research projects, which was how she came to speak fluent Spanish.

But she soon came to realise that she would only be able to track down travelling medicine men and faith healers if she learnt their language.

So she set out to learn Quechua, which is fundamentally different from Indo-European languages and subdivided into a plethora of dialects.

The meaning of words is changed by infixes, or syllables inserted into the middle of words.

They are portmanteau words Europeans find hard to understand. She spent at least an hour a day for three years learning the language.

Linguistic fluency alone was not the key to what, for Europeans, is an alien civilisation. How was she as a woman in a male-oriented Indian society to gain access to secret rituals?

She succeeded. In conversation she testifies to a keen sense of understanding how other people feel. She can also wait and listen without losing track of her target.

As she says in her book: "I don't set about a 'primitive' civilisation with my 'highly-developed' intellect in order to unlock its secrets with a simply-carved, cognitive key."

"Mine is the 'primitive' mind. It has to grow. My language, my categories and theories are not what matter; what matters is to explain the alien civilisation in its own terms — as far as possible, and metaphorically speaking."

In her book Ina Rösing can be seen to work like a reporter, with a camera, tape recorder and notebook. She describes graphically and in detail how a medicinal ritual is performed. She has attended hundreds of them.

Her researches have benefited from



Laboratory work might be more pleasant, but... Professor Ina Rösing-Diederich. (Photo: Simon Reisch)

■ THE ENVIRONMENT Combination of causes for forest deaths

The threat to the world's forests was the main topic at the 14th International Botanical Congress in Berlin, where 3,800 scientists from 80 countries met.

It has become clear that the causes of tree diseases are much more varied than was once thought.

The advisory council to the Bonn government has specified five different forms of damage in various parts of Germany.

Professor Hubert Ziegler of Munich University told the congress there were now clear pointers to the combination of causes.

He regretted that the annual forest white paper merely listed the extent of damage and not the forms and the conditions in various locations.

Scientists seem to have made progress towards explaining the yellowing and loss of needles to spruce trees at high altitudes in the Mittelgebirge. It is a fairly new form of damage in Germany, say most authorities.

It would be the most comprehensive destruction of species since plants first appeared in the early stages of terrestrial evolution.

The ever faster rate of destruction is due mainly to deforestation in the tropics. Tropical rain forests account for only six per cent of the Earth's land surface area but are home for half the higher plant species.

Year by year, Myers said, one per cent of the jungle is destroyed and a further per cent is hit by creeping destruction and a decline in the number of surviving flora.

Damage is mainly due to the felling of valuable timber, which is done in such a way that much useless timber is also felled.

Professor Ziegler said a high ozone count was unlikely to be directly to blame for this damage.

Laboratory tests had shown the count of various pigments in spruce needles to change under the influence of ozone, but this was not the case with needles in the areas affected.

In other areas different combinations of factors are felt to be to blame. In the Erzgebirge region serious tree damage is clearly due to an extremely high sulphur dioxide count in the air.

Besides, the tropics were a major reservoir of potential crop plants and genetic material by which to improve existing crop plants.

In the limestone Alps a shortage of potassium and manganese was a further factor, causing needles to turn yellow and wilt.

The reason or reasons for this shortage of essential elements are unknown. Neither nitric oxides nor sulphur dioxide have been found in large quantities in the air. Maybe atmospheric ozone is

Continued from page 12

magic. Professor Rösing may be in two minds about the public effect of her work, but she is delighted to have been awarded the Ulm municipal science prize for the first volume in her *Mundo Ankari* series.

She sees this distinction as a token of recognition for all who have helped her with her difficult research work: her fund donors, her university colleagues and her publishers, who have issued the excitingly written yet academic work in an inexpensive paperback edition.

Ansgret Bock
(Stuttgarter Zeitung, 28 July 1987)

here the key factor. Another area where the situation is specific and different is the region between the Alps and the Danube, where needles have tended to turn red and die at lower altitudes.

Professor Ziegler says this is mainly due to fungus affecting trees previously damaged by frost. The latest forest white paper reported an improvement in this area to an extent found nowhere else.

In an interview with *Die Welt* Professor Ziegler drew a number of conclusions from these preliminary findings.

Harmful substances in the air were mainly to blame for tree damage in some cases but of no importance in others. So all sources of atmospheric pollution must continue to be reduced.

In addition, forest damage must be specified in all reports according to region, altitude and special conditions in the areas affected.

Hard hit though European forests may be, botanists are even more worried about the threat to tropical rain forests. British ecologist Norman Myers told the congress an estimated 40,000 higher plant species were in acute danger of extinction and would probably cease to exist within 20 to 30 years.

The chemical composition of the tree at the time the ring took shape can only be specified for sure if individual substances stay in place, as it were.

The concentrations of such mobile elements as sodium and potassium cannot be said to be particularly reliable.

Calcium and magnesium and traces of iron, manganese and zinc seem, in contrast, to be so firmly linked to the wood structure that their presence is conclusive in itself.

Biogeologists in the United States and Europe have separately analysed wood samples from different locations and arrived, independently of each other, at the conclusion that the element pattern of tree trunk rings is a telltale sign of the industrial history of entire regions.

Smokestacks in various industries undoubtedly make their mark in the cross-section of a tree trunk. Counts of metals such as copper, calcium, calcium, manganese, magnesium and iron are particularly revealing.

Higher concentrations of these substances can be measured in individual rings decades later.

With the support of the Saar forestry department Dr Meisch has analysed wood samples from different locations and arrived, independently of each other, at the conclusion that the element pattern of tree trunk rings is a telltale sign of the industrial history of entire regions.

This shortfall has also been noted in beech trees growing in limestone areas, while higher concentrations of iron and aluminium have been found in trees growing in acid soil (aluminium being rated a toxin).

Regardless of soil category, Dr Meisch reports a substantial increase in the phosphate count in recent rings.

This "wastage" of so much phosphorus in the wood may initially come as a surprise, bearing in mind that phosphorus normally impedes plant growth (a fact long known by farmers who use fertiliser to boost crop yield).

The sulphur make-up of incist trees seems to have changed lately, with older beech trees in areas exposed to heavy pollution registering a heavy sulphur intake.

This is probably in direct response to the higher exposure to sulphur in the air, which can affect trees via both leaves and roots.

Given the various explanations that have been advanced to account for tree epidemics, Dr Meisch feels his findings permit only one conclusion:

"Industrial activity in recent decades, the steadily increasing consumption of fuel, especially fossil fuels, has affected the living conditions of trees to such an extent that fundamental metabolic factors have been thrown off balance."

Magnesium and manganese play crucial roles in photosynthesis. The ratio of organic to inorganic phosphorus decides the extent to which a plant produces biomass or sets aside reserves.

Elements such as calcium and zinc play a no less vital part in enzyme processes. So it is hardly surprising that trees are steadily declining in vitality.

Dieter Thierbach
(Der Tagesspiegel, Berlin, 18 July 1987)

Industrial histories revealed by tree-trunk rings

Tree trunk rings have long been used as a source of information in reconstructing the past, shedding light on a tree's age and on climate conditions in its life-span.

Environmentalists are now keenly interested in dendrochronology as a source of important information on what may cause tree death epidemics.

A Saarbrücken University biogeologist, Hans-Ulrich Meisch, has isolated rings, divided them into their chemical components and analysed them.

The result was a certain pattern of chemical elements indicating the relative concentration of vital nutrients and trace elements.

At about 15 years ago, for instance, a change evidently took place in the trees' mineral make-up that led to progressive, drastic change in the chemical pattern of their rings.

In areas with a combination of acid rain and sandstone the highest calcium and magnesium counts were found to have occurred in periods when iron and steel boomed in the Saar.

Calcium and magnesium counts have declined markedly in the rings of copper beeches of all ages since 1970, coinciding with a period of relative industrial decline.

Interestingly enough, these lower concentrations also coincide with lower particle emission levels and a corresponding decline in the concentration of these elements in the soil.

Dr Meisch views with particular dismay the fairly high shortfall of essential elements such as calcium, magnesium, manganese and zinc stored in the wood.

This shortfall has also been noted in beech trees growing in limestone areas, while higher concentrations of iron and aluminium have been found in trees growing in acid soil (aluminium being rated a toxin).

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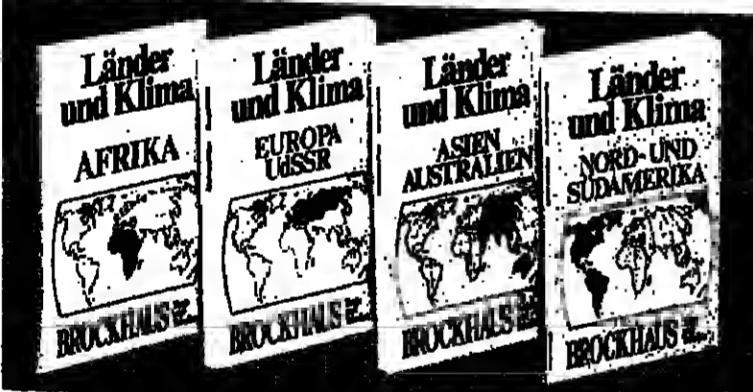
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Wilhelm Irsh
(Der Tagesspiegel, Berlin, 18 July 1987)

Meteorological stations all over the world



supplied the data arranged in see-at-a-glance tables in these new reference works. They include details of air and water temperature, precipitation, humidity, sunshine, physical stress of climate, wind conditions and frequency of thunderstorms.

These figures compiled over the years are invaluable both for planning journeys to distant countries and for scientific research.

Basic facts and figures for every country in the world form a preface to the second book, entitled *Dreifältigkeit und Ozean* (Trinity and Places of Power) is due in December or early next year.

The guides are handy in size and flexibly bound, indispensable for daily use in commerce, industry and the travel trade.

Four volumes are available:

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Look it up in Brockhaus
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Eight dilapidated houses owned by the city of Hamburg in the inner-city district of St. Pauli have become the hottest on-going issue in the city-state. The houses, in a waterfront street called Hafenstrasse, have been listed for demolition but are occupied by squatters. Television crews have been having a field day with demonstrators and squatters and sympathisers clashing with riot police. Last month, police moved in and evicted the squatters. But they moved back in and put up the barricades. Barbed wire has been laid, ground-floor windows covered by grilles, pitfalls dug and bollards erected on the footpath and loudspeakers on

the roofs. The mayor of Hamburg, Klaus von Dohnanyi (SPD) and the head of the city's Free Democrat faction, Ingo von Münch, were in favour of accepting but were unable to persuade their party colleagues (the parties are taking part in drawn-out talks over a coalition to replace the SPD's minority government.) No one knows what the next step in the saga, which has been dragging on for years, might be, or if the last word has yet to be heard on the Reemtsma solution. In this article for the Hamburg weekly, *Die Zeit*, Karl-Heinz Büschemann looks at Reemtsma, the retiring, reluctant tycoon who holds the key to the crisis.

CURIOSITIES

The lonely, faceless millionaire and the Siege of Hafenstrasse

Squatters have been occupying dilapidated houses in Hamburg's Hafenstrasse for years. Successive efforts to get them out permanently and pull the houses down have failed. The issue has been on the boil for years and there is no end in sight.

But now an odd twist has occurred: an industrial tycoon, Jan Philipp Reemtsma, has offered to buy the disputed houses and let the tenants remain.

But the Hamburg city administration is not quite convinced. Spokesman Thomas Mirow, reflecting the SPD administration's worries, said they would first have to be assurances about that, guarantees about this, responsibility would have to be taken... etc. It is a touchy affair, tinged with violence. The city's aim is to cool it.

There are eight decaying houses and about 100 squatters involved and the area has an almost state-of-emergency atmosphere.

Reemtsma, who is only 34, cannot understand the politicians. All he wants to do is to take the houses over without conditions and leave the occupiers to live in their own way — and without him interfering with them.

He says: "An offer should be made to the occupiers and, politically, a way ought to be found to do it."

He puts much of the blame on the State itself for the fact that over the past five years, there have been recurring clashes between the squatters and the police; plus forced evictions; with the squatters keeping on coming back.

He says the main part of the problem would be solved if he could buy the houses, which have been turned into virtual fortresses.

Reemtsma can afford to stand beyond the State and the politics behind the affair. In 1980, as a 28-year-old literature student, he sold his majority holding in the Hamburg cigarette business of Reemtsma Cigarettenfabrik GmbH, which he had inherited from his father, Philipp Fürchtegott Reemtsma, who died when Jan Reemtsma was just seven. The price was 300 million marks.

The young Reemtsma didn't want to be a businessman so he freed himself from the shackles of business and started doing what he wanted to do; and it wasn't the sort of thing that people who inherit large amounts of money usually do.

He is an aesthete who prefers to give out money for cultural and scientific purposes rather than invest it in cigarette machines. His first act as a bene-

factor was to back an author called Arno Schmidt in the last years of his life. He is now editing the diary of Schmidt's widow, Alice. This, he says, is a long-term project.

When Reemtsma's fortune has probably through sound investment, doubled by now. He is using some of it to finance an Arno Schmidt Foundation. He also supports the Hamburg Institute for Social Research, an institute he founded; he supports a Theodor W. Adorno library; and an archive which investigates women's issues.

He says he has no great desire to be a philanthropist; he just wants to do what he thinks is important.

Reemtsma says he left the firm because he didn't think he was cut out to be a businessman. And, he says apologetically, he didn't want to burden the firm. But since he got out, the firm has nose-dived in the face of stiff competition. In cold cash terms, it could be said he made the right commercial decision.

Perhaps, could it conceivably be that he isn't quite such an unworldly person, after all?

But there is no doubt that he is a shy person. He admits that he has always been alone, from childhood. This loneliness, this loneliness, led him to the world of books and away from the other world of commerce.

When his contemporaries and acquaintances jettisoned around with abandon, Reemtsma seldom left Hamburg. "I have no need to travel," he says of his life.

"Suits me," said Reemtsma.

Not even the gossip columnists or the tabloid Press have managed to dig up anything — not even a whiff of an affair with a woman.

Reemtsma wants to remain anonymous and, when you meet him, you get the feeling that he has been pretty suc-

cessful in a way which demonstrates his inner tranquillity. "After all, I can read."

But there are disquieting aspects about his way of life. Although his institute was set up in the middle of a trendy, lively and popular Hamburg suburb, Pößeldorf, this pale and uncertain-looking man in his middle 30s with thinning brown hair and moustache is reluctant to open up his world to other people.

A person like this inevitably creates speculation. A man who becomes involved in a public issue with a high profile, Hafenstrasse, yet who privately remains remote from it; a man who is super-rich yet who disdains his wealth; this is all bound to provoke the public imagination.

It inevitably makes people ask: is he merely an oddball? Or something

For example, one project he is back-



Public name, private face . . . Industrial heir Raemtsma. (Drawing: W. Wieg)

ing is an investigation of Daimler-Benz's role during the Third Reich with the aim of not letting the past vanish from memory. It is a project that has not won him many friends.

Every day he receives letters from people wanting something. There are the envious ones; and the scroungers wanting a touch of his wealth; at prostitutes wanting him as a benefactor; people wanting him to pay off their debts. He rejects them all.

But it is clear that he finds the process of rejection a somewhat awkward process: the way he rejects makes some people feel like unwanted evil dues. One sycophant who applied to the institute for an advertised job, got a rejection which he described as "rude".

So how did a man from the rarified layers of Hamburg society become involved in the blood-and-guts world of the Hafenstrasse? The squatters rang him up because they wanted tiles for the roofs.

Reemtsma agreed. "I decided to become involved because I could see that the way things were going, someone was going to get killed sooner or later." He is now a member of the Committee for the Defence of the Hafenstrasse. Fellow members include a clergyman and a judge.

The Hamburg government hopes still that the Hafenstrasse affair can be peacefully ended with Reemtsma's help. Because whatever he does, whether it is naive or wrong, not even his opponents challenge his honorable intentions.

He doesn't want to profit from the houses — a rare enough phenomenon. (They have an elevated view over the Elbe and would be worth a lot of money redeveloped as blocks of flats, for example).

Reemtsma can fulfil every imaginable material wish, but he regards other things as more important, things that can't be bought. For example: "When someone whose views I value says, 'you did that well.'"

Then he adds with obvious relish: "Or when I upset the people who ought to be upset."

Karl-Heinz Büschemann
(Die Zeit, Hamburg, 31 July 1987)

DIE ZEIT

It is reported that both von Dohnanyi (SPD) and the head of the city's Free Democrat faction, Ingo von Münch, were in favour of accepting but were unable to persuade their party colleagues (the parties are taking part in drawn-out talks over a coalition to replace the SPD's minority government.) No one knows what the next step in the saga, which has been dragging on for years, might be, or if the last word has yet to be heard on the Reemtsma solution. In this article for the Hamburg weekly, *Die Zeit*, Karl-Heinz Büschemann looks at Reemtsma, the retiring, reluctant tycoon who holds the key to the crisis.

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HORIZONS

A bodyguard for all seasons — if you can afford one

NÜRNBERGER Nachrichten

Advanced across the thickly carpeted floor as stealthily as I could; I aimed the pistol at my quarry and fired. Suddenly I was on the floor. I was no longer the assailant but the assailed.

The shot had gone off, but it was a dudum and made more smoke and noise than anything else. Hans Kummer laughed and gently released his grip. The game was over. It was my first experience of bodyguard training — practical rather than theoretical.

Kummer is a bodyguard from Munich. He prefers to live in his office apartment. He is a lone fighter in the well-soldiered business of guarding people and security.

In America this kind of business is recording a growth rate of 40 per cent. In Germany security experts and bodyguards are experiencing a boom because of the mounting anxiety about terrorist attacks and crime.

More and more industry managers are giving themselves peace of mind by taking 24-hour security measures.

This is all to the good to a man such as Hans Kummer, well-trained, with experience from all over the world, always at the ready with a pistol in his hand.

Kummer was a telecommunications engineer. He said, and he said it as if he were a master of course: "I could always shoot."

He was born in Switzerland. He began as a 14 year old practising shooting with his father's pistol. The hobby of his teenage years became a full-time job.

Today Hans Kummer concentrates on special contracts. His core clientele, drawn from medium-sized companies, have fears for their lives and their cash.

The average day in the life of a bodyguard can, for example, begin at seven in the morning in a first-class hotel in Bangkok, Manila or Singapore.

Conferences, business lunches or discreet excursions of a private nature — Kummer is there all the time, constantly watching the person whom he is commissioned to guard, eyes endlessly on what's going on around him.

He said: "You have to be ready for a kidnapping, a robbery, every minute of the day. You have to strain every nerve. A mistake could be fatal."

He seems to be almost too portly to be a bodyguard. But this impression is deceptive; perhaps deliberately so.

Kummer is an expert at close-quarter fighting and he can tell some stories.

Mayer said that he had no time for friends. "On duty day and night, abroad, an irregular life, chaotic."

"Do you have worries?" My direct question brought a smile to his normally unsmiling face. He replied: "You can't have anxiety in this job."

Mayer said that every risk is worked over "until we can tackle it."

A tailor-made security concept is developed mercilessly from an observa-

tion of working, drinking and sleeping habits and life style. This amounts to a strategic job for Mayer's best professionals, a former police commissioner in the crime squad.

Crime inspector Kirchmann of the Munich police said that in most cases the state offers no protection to the citizen, frightened in this way. He or she is only given protection if the threat can be proven."

People in public life are divided into three categories: in considerable danger (guarded 24-hours a day), likely to be in danger, a medium stage (sporadic protection) and people in the least danger (pursued under observation).

It is an open secret that Bavarian Prime Minister Franz Josef Strauss, for example, is protected by ten bodyguards. But for some time the government has not been able to afford security guarantees for people at the government director level. Capacity has been overstressed.

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enemy haunts the executive offices of security companies. Terrorists can ruin the best-laid, well-thought-out, neat and tidy security arrangements with one strategically placed bomb.

In these cases, and suddenly everyone involved is prepared to admit this, human error is at the root of things.

Why did Beckurt travel the same route, at the same time in a car that had no armoured plating? That was fatal naivety, strategic sloppiness.

Hans Kummer takes the view that the under-paid officers, transferred to security work, were at fault. Mayer said: "We don't make mistakes like that."

Bodyguards to people are under constant threat. They are completely and utterly at the mercy of the fate of their clients, Klaus Hannekamp said.

"I enjoy it," he added. He has no private life and twice a year he is fitted out with a new suit for his work.

He said: "It is exciting, a change, action. I'm never in the lime-light, but I'm in a key position. Not one gets past me."

But his days in the job are numbered. At the latest in his mid-40s must he give up. No bodyguard can go about in the job with a slipped disc.

Peter Eckert, a private detective, is in trouble shortly. He was wearing leather trousers and a roll-top jumper when I met him. The atmosphere in his office-home is homely.

Over his desk there is a certificate from the Association of British Investigators.

Eckert is a detective of the old school. He is a former crime squad officer and learned his trade from the ranks.

He does not guard highly endangered people. He said: "That would be presumptuous."

His clients are, for example, old ladies who want to be accompanied to the safe deposit boxes in the bank. Or a building contractor who is constantly being harassed by a former employee.

He said: "These are cases that can usually be solved quickly." The fee is between DM60 and DM80 per hour.

He added: "The best thing to do is to deflect things. The ideal bodyguard operates defensively."

Eckert gives some gloomy forecasts. Body-guard companies are mushrooming. Business dealing with people's anxieties is flourishing.

He said: "Security is becoming a prohibitively expensive luxury commodity. People who have money can have themselves protected. People who really need protection are alone."

Dorothea Fröhlich

(Nürnberger Nachrichten, 12 July 1987)



Like their clients, bodyguards come in both sexes.

(Photo: Sven Simon)